

THE GREAT CONTEST.  
NEWS TO 8 1-2 SATURDAY NIGHT  
ALL QUIET ON THURSDAY.

# New-York Tribune

VOL. XXIV.....No. 7,229. NEW-YORK, MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1864. PRICE THREE CENTS.

Grant Assaults Lee's Lines  
on Friday Morning.

The Rebels Driven at All Points.

THE LINES VERY CLOSE TOGETHER.

THE REBELS ATTACK US ON FRIDAY NIGHT

Desperate Attempt to Break  
Grant's Lines.

THE ATTACK REPULSED.

Rebels Driven from their Rifle Pits.

THEY BACK OUT IN THE NIGHT.

OUR LOSSES FOR THREE DAYS.

REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVING FOR GRANT

LATER FROM SHERMAN.

HE IS GETTING AROUND ATLANTA.

WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL DISPATCHES.

Secretary Stanton to Gen. Dix—All Quiet  
on Thursday—On Friday Grant As-

saults the Whole Rebel Line—They are  
Driven into their Intrenchments—Our

Loss not Severe—Some of the Casual-

ties.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, June 4, 1864.

Maj.-Gen. DIX: Dispatches from Gen. Grant's  
headquarters, dated 3 o'clock yesterday, have just been  
received. No operations took place on Thursday.

Yesterday morning at 4 o'clock, Gen. Grant made  
an assault on the enemy's lines, of which he makes the  
following report:

We assaulted at 4:30 a. m., driving the enemy within  
his intrenchments at all points, but without gaining any  
decisive advantage. Our troops now occupy a position  
close to the enemy—some places within fifty yards—and  
are remaining. Our loss was not severe, nor do I expect  
the enemy to have lost heavily. We captured over  
1,000 prisoners, mostly from Breckinridge.

Another later official report, not from Gen. Grant,  
estimates the number of our killed and wounded at  
about 3,000. The following officers are among the  
killed:

Col. HASKELL, 36th Wisconsin.  
Col. PORTER, 5th New-York Heavy Artillery.  
Col. MORRIS, 6th New-York.

Among the wounded are:  
Gen. N. O. TYLER, seriously; will probably lose a foot.  
Col. MCMAHON, 14th New-York.  
Col. BYRNES, 5th Massachusetts, probably mortally.  
Col. BROOKS, 2d Pennsylvania.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Secretary Stanton to Gen. Dix—Lee makes  
an Attack on Friday—Gen. Grant's

Rebels Bounced—Rifle-Pits Taken—  
Lee Retires during the Night—Later

from Sherman—He is Going Ahead.

WASHINGTON, June 5—1 p. m.

Major-General DIX: A dispatch from Gen.  
Grant's headquarters, dated 8 o'clock last night, has  
just been received. It states that: About 7 p. m. yester-

day, the enemy's cavalry on the Mechanicsville pike, and  
after quite a heavy engagement drove them to within  
about five miles of Richmond, holding his ground. The  
5th Corps soon after pressed forward and formed his  
rear support; and this morning the 6th Corps swung  
around from its old position on the right and moved  
down to Coal Harbor and Mechanicsville. Barlow's  
division of the 2d Corps again distinguished itself last  
night, just before dawn, in charging upon and carrying  
two lines of the enemy's rifle pits. The 7th N. Y.  
Heavy Artillery, just come up, acquitted itself with dis-

tinguished gallantry, and sustained a loss of nearly 150.  
Our entire lines were considerably advanced last night,  
and the impression seems to prevail that Lee has with-

drawn his main force within the inner defenses of Rich-

mond. His losses the past two days must have been  
very severe, largely in excess of ours.

This morning headquarters are again in the saddle, but  
where it will light does not yet seem to be generally un-

derstood. The sound of all our cannonading is now  
distinctly heard in Richmond, and the fugitive contra-

bands who stroll into camp report the citizens there as  
in the highest state of excitement and trepidation.

The scene in front of Warren yesterday morning was  
sad and sickening to the last degree.

The enemy had left all his dead and such wounded as  
were unable to get themselves away in utter wanton-

ness, and there they lay under the breaking light of  
morning revealed ghastly heaps of dead, dying, horribly

mangled, and more slightly wounded, piled upon one  
another and strewn about the field in all directions.

There can be no question that the enemy willfully  
abandoned his seriously wounded to our care, with the  
deliberate purpose of imposing the burden of their care  
upon us.

NINK, A. M.—Hancock is still hammering away at the  
enemy's advance picket line, eliciting thus far little or  
no response.

Capt. Platt of the Commissary Department, who was  
captured yesterday, it is stated, was at the time re-

considering outside our lines.

Our extreme left-to-day rest upon the line of the York  
River Railroad, giving us a line of some six to eight  
miles in extent.

THURSDAY, June 3—8 a. m.

About 4 p. m. yesterday the 6th Corps on our ex-

treme left bank Coal Harbor made a heavy charge,  
supported by Baldy Smith's forces, which had come up  
and taken position. Gen. Wright made a desperate  
and successful assault on the enemy's first line of  
works, and the capture of from six to eight hundred  
prisoners. The enemy's loss has been very severe, and  
our own considerable. The affair is spoken of by  
Gen. Meade as one of great gallantry and ad-

vantage to us.

An hour later, and Warren was assailed after the old  
plan of hurling masked columns upon his lines, but  
having his infantry well posted behind earthworks, and  
his artillery well in position, the enemy was repulsed  
in three desperate charges with frightful slaughter.

Warren's loss is given as about 300. The same attempt  
was also made upon Hancock's line, and repulsed with  
equal stubbornness and valor. At times, just prior to  
and after dark, our entire lines would be engaged, but  
in no case did our troops waver, or give an inch of  
ground, though the fighting has been the most desper-

ate of any we have had since Spottsylvania. Gen.  
Meade and Grant participated with the men in feelings  
of the highest satisfaction over yesterday's work.

The main attack was upon Griffin, but his men stood  
their ground like rocks, and wherever the Rebel masses  
were hurled against any particular point a deadly fire  
from our entire line was poured in upon them, so that  
while our losses will not exceed five hundred in all, that  
of the enemy must have been two or three thousand.

Such frantic assaults as the enemy made upon our  
earthworks, with the repeated annihilation of his troops,  
can only be accounted for by his desperation and mad-

ness.

Our corps occupied the following order yesterday:  
Hancock on the right, near Bethesda Church, Burnside  
next, Warren in the center, nearly fronting  
Atlee's Station, then Wright stretching down  
to Coal Harbor, supported by Baldy Smith,  
whose forces were also more or less engaged  
at times. Burnside's corps was also heavily assailed at  
times, and acquitted themselves most creditably. The  
new troops for the first time under fire have won  
special commendation for their heroic endurance and  
bravery. Despite hard marching, hard and irregular  
sleep and rations, and despite some of the most stub-

born fighting of the war, all our men are still hopeful,  
even jubilant. Every move our Army now makes is in  
the desired direction, and the men are inspired thereby.

Baldy Smith visited headquarters for the first time  
last night.

Our left-to-day rests upon the line of the York River  
Railroad, giving us a line of some six to eight miles  
in extent.

REDA.

farious sallies, in which they get quickly whipped and  
lose men.

Operations Around Toltopotomoy Creek—  
The Enemy Getting Across the Chick-

ahominy—Grant's Irresistible Flanking  
—Our Cavalry in Mechanicsville—Our

Base at White House all Safe.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, June 3, 1864.

J. B. H. writes:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, 1  
Thursday, June 3, 1864.

The successful operations of the 5th Corps on Mon-

day, followed up by the advance of the 2d Corps on  
Tuesday a. m., compelled the enemy to withdraw from  
their line on the Toltopotomoy. They have retreated to  
the south side of the Chickahominy, with the exception  
of a thin line to retard our advance.

Our cavalry entered Mechanicsville last evening,  
after scouting about the old battlefields of the Chick-

ahominy. Gen. Grant still pushes his left flank suc-

cessfully, and his strategy still baffles the maneuvers of  
the enemy, having offered them battle on the Toltopotomoy,  
with his right wing resting on the Virginia Central  
Railroad, and having compelled the enemy to withdraw  
across the Chickahominy. He has thrown his left wing,  
with his usual celerity, away to the east of Richmond,  
and is now threatening the crossing of the Chickahominy  
at Bottom's Bridge. This is now the point of in-

terest.

Baldy Smith arrived from White House just in time  
to get into action and to cooperate with our left flank  
last night.

All day the firing in that direction indicates that a  
severe battle has been raging, and to-night we are glad  
to observe the cannonading to be perceptibly more dis-

tant.

Our new base is now completely established at White  
House.

Our wagon train arrived from the front to-day, com-

ing down the north side of the Pamunkey, under guard  
of the Pennsylvania Reserves, whose term of service  
has just expired. Having fought the gallant battle of  
Bethesda Church upon their last day of service, a most  
suitable recognition of their service was elicited from  
Gen. Warren.

The line to the White House is now open upon the  
south side of the Pamunkey. The sick and wounded  
have arrived to-day, and are going forward to Washing-

ton and Baltimore.

What "Scyngie" Means—The Value of Staff  
Officers—A Hegetic Who Fights Like

John Brown—The Captain Who Has  
Brains—An Unknown Hero—The Hard

Facts of a Campaign—"Fighting It  
Out on This Line."

From Our Special Correspondent.

HEADQUARTERS 5TH CORPS, ELEVEN MILES NORTH OF  
RICHMOND, Tuesday, June 3, 1864.

While artillery thunders all along the front,  
and the line closes hard up against the enemy, while  
the minutes are hours, for fatal musketry may break  
out at any moment and open the Battle of Richmond,  
to kill the time and relieve the terrible suspense that  
weighs on a man more than work or danger, permit me  
to write a general, gossip letter, on all sorts of topics  
—a letter that shall waive "the situation," and deal  
with things other than "the latest from the front."

A 4th Corps staff officer dismounted near me a moment  
ago. I inquired where he had been riding. He in-

formed me that he had been sent out on a general  
"scyngie," that he had "scyngied" along the front  
where the Johnnies "scyngied" a bullet through his  
clothes, that on his return he "scyngied" an ice-house,  
that he should "scyngie" his servant, who, by the way,  
had just "scyngied" three fat chickens for a supply of  
food; that after he had "scyngied" his dinner he proposed  
to "scyngie" a nap—and closed by asking how I "scyngied."

The word originated at these headquarters,  
and is supposed to be derived from two Greek words,  
Army libraries do not contain "Liddell and Scott," or  
I should endeavor to ascertain what the two words are.  
The word "scyngie," it will be perceived, has  
any meaning any one chooses to attach to it,  
has not only a variety, but a contrariety of meanings.  
It is synonymous with "gobble" and with "absolutely."  
It is used for any other word and for want of any other  
word. To fully define it would require the 39 volumes  
of the German savant gave to a discussion of Greek  
particles.

"Scyngie" is respectfully commended to persons  
curious and learned in orthography. The general public,  
at the same time, informed with a smudge of Delphic  
oracularity which it is hoped will be appreciated, that  
newspaper correspondents with the army being "scyngies,"  
"scyngie" is "scyngie."

A good staff officer is a good thing. No ability  
on the part of a General can compensate the want of a  
good staff, while an incompetent general often wears  
the laurels that belong rightfully to some junior officer  
who rides with him. It is only lately that the impor-

tance of an efficient staff has been half appreciated in  
the army; by the country it is not yet understood.  
Know, then, that Gen. Smith, Jones or Brown com-

mands this or that division or brigade well, because he  
has the good sense to defer to the opinions of Capt.  
Brown, Jones or Smith of his staff; know that Capt.  
R. J. or S. is every whit as good an officer as Gen. S.,  
J. or R., and that the latter's brilliant reputation often  
rests on the former's brilliant brain. I know a Lieu-

tenant Colonel and chief of staff, who, if required to  
assume command of this corps to-morrow, would regret  
himself as the best of Major-Generals, and yet he  
is in no direct line of promotion, and his reputation,  
being an army growth, is confined mainly to the army.  
Politically he is a rank heretic, but—and the fact is an  
illustration of the larger fact involved in it—He makes  
the worth of men to praise him—my Lieutenant-Colonel  
Colonel fights as though he were John Brown himself!

Then there is a certain Captain of Engineers at army  
headquarters, who, by far, is the exception, the hard-

worked and most useful officer in this whole  
army. It is his business to ascertain—and he must do  
mainly by personal observation—the topography of every  
new region the army occupies. He must make surveys,  
question contrabands, deserters and prisoners in regard  
to roads, bridges and fords, draw maps, and consult,  
often, even, than corps commanders, with the "Major-  
General commanding." In a word, the army is often  
dependent upon the judgment of this one Captain. A  
fortnight ago, at Spottsylvania, he partly discovered and  
partly made a road whereby four miles were saved in  
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Then there is a certain Captain of Engineers at army  
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from Gaines's Mills, the site of the battle of two years  
ago.

Our advance is now within ten miles of the Rebel  
capital.

Beauregard's force, together with portions of Hill's  
and Longstreet's corps, were engaged in the battle of  
yesterday. The prisoners taken belonged mostly to the  
former's command.

Our total loss in yesterday's battle amounts to about  
1,800 in killed, wounded and missing. Of this number,  
Smith lost 800, Russell 450, and the 100th, 350.  
I enclose a list of casualties among the officers of the  
6th and 18th Corps.

The following Rebel letter, recently found on the  
battle-field, gives "Sergeant Graham's" impression as  
to "the situation":

My SAINTED LOVE: I am almost tired of this! So  
long as there appeared a chance of achieving our na-

tional independence, I fought with a will; but that hope  
was dashed to earth. I have no more to strive any  
longer to keep this day from going to the devil sooner  
than he otherwise would.

Do not blush, my sainted love, but ready I wish I  
were out of this army and joined to you in the holy  
bosom of wedlock.

After an allusion to matters pertaining to himself  
and his "sainted love," he closes as follows:

I must close hurriedly. We are ordered to charge  
the Yankees, and if possible surround them.

Truly yours own, SERGEANT GRAHAM, C. S. A.

WHITE HOUSE, 3 o'clock p. m.—Have just arrived  
here with dispatches from THE TARIFF. Heavy can-

nonading has been heard since 10 o'clock this morning,  
and it is probable that the 2d Corps while crossing the  
Chickahominy was attacked, and that another battle is  
now raging. The firing sounds in the direction of  
Richmond, and is at times very heavy.

J. C. O.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY CORPS,  
NEAR OLD HARBOR, Thursday, June 3, 1864.

Grant's fourth grand flank movement is now  
in process of consummation, and judging from the re-

sults of yesterday's operations—in the capture of prison-

ers and positions—we may reasonably look for a suc-

cessful issue.

A hotly-contested battle, commencing at about 4 p.  
m., and continuing far into the night, took place yester-

day, resulting in the capturing of 600 prisoners and the  
carrying of the principal works of the enemy. The  
gallant old 6th Corps bore the brunt of the battle